

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A lawnmower convertible between a bagging mode and a mulching mode, the convertible lawnmower comprising:

 a cutter housing having a discharge opening;
 an engine mount centrally positioned on the cutter housing;
 a prime mover supported on the engine mount;
 a rotary mulching blade coupled to the prime mover to rotate in a blade circle along a cutting plane about a rotation axis within the cutter housing;
 a cover ~~movably~~ mounted within the cutter housing above the blade circle in a plane parallel to the cutting plane and, the cover being movable between a full bagging position where the discharge opening is unobstructed by the cover and a full mulching position where the cover obstructs the discharge opening; and
 a fin extending from the cover toward the cutting plane.

2. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, further comprising at least one position intermediate the full bagging position and the full mulching position where the cover partially obstructs the discharge opening.

3. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, wherein the cover includes:

a plurality of shutters extending substantially parallel to the cutting plane, the plurality of shutters stacked in a direction parallel to the rotation axis and slidable laterally relative to one another, each of the plurality of shutters including:

a first end; and

a second end;

a pivot connecting the first ends of the plurality of shutters to the cutting housing; and

a support spaced from and secured to the cutting surface;

wherein the second ends of the plurality of shutters are slidable along the support between a collapsed position where the plurality of shutters overlie one another, an intermediate position where the plurality of shutters partially overlap one another, and an extended position where the plurality of shutters extend laterally from one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 3, wherein the fin extends from one of the plurality of shutters, the fin including:

a first end adjacent to the pivot; and

a second end including a slot extending toward the first end of the fin;

wherein the support extends into the slot.

5. (Previously Presented) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the cutter housing includes:

an inner scroll centered about the engine mount; and
an outer scroll centered about the inner scroll and the discharge opening
being in the outer scroll;

the fin extending from one of the plurality of shutters toward the cutting plane
and arcuately in a direction substantially parallel to the cutting plane and the first end
of the fin being adjacent the junction of the roof and the outer scroll.

6. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the
second end of the fin is movable between a first position adjacent the inner scroll
when the plurality of shutters are in the collapsed position, a second position
adjacent the outer scroll when the plurality of shutters are in the extended position,
and at least one position intermediate the first position and the second position when
the plurality of shutters are in the intermediate position.

7. (Currently Amended) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4,
wherein the inner scroll includes a recess aligned with the fin and the one shutter, the
fin and the one shutter received in the recess when the one shutter is in the
collapsed position.

8. (Previously Presented) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4,
wherein the support spans from the outer scroll to the inner scroll.

9. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the second end of each of the plurality of shutters extends into the space between the support and the cutter housing.

10. (Currently Amended) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, wherein the cover includes:

a first shutter connected to a roof of the cutter housing adjacent the outer scroll;

a second shutter movable relative to the first shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll[[;]], the second shutter includes including a first abutment and a second abutment; and

a third shutter movable relative to the second shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll[[;]], the third shutter includes including a third abutment adjacent;

the third abutment engages engaging the first abutment when the cover moves toward the full mulching position and the third abutment engages engaging the second abutment when the cover moves toward the full bagging position; and

wherein the fin extends from the third shutter.

11. (Currently Amended) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 10, wherein ~~each of the plurality of shutters~~ the first shutter, the second shutter, and the

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third shutter sequentially overlie one another as the cover moves from the full mulching position to the full bagging position.

12. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 3, wherein the fin lies intermediate the cutting plane and the discharge opening.

13. (Original) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, further comprising a ramp secured in the cutter housing proximate to the cover.

14-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A lawnmower convertible between a bagging mode and a mulching mode, the convertible lawnmower comprising:

 a cutter housing having a discharge opening;
 an engine mount centrally positioned on the cutter housing;
 a prime mover supported on the engine mount;
 a rotary mulching blade coupled to the prime mover to rotate in a cutting plane about a rotation axis within the cutter housing;

 a cover movably mounted within the cutter housing in a plane parallel to the cutting plane and between a full bagging position where the discharge opening is unobstructed by the cover and a full mulching position where the cover obstructs the discharge opening; and

a fin extending from the cover toward the cutting plane; and

wherein the cover includes:

a plurality of shutters extending substantially parallel to the cutting plane, the plurality of shutters stacked in a direction parallel to the rotation axis and slidable laterally relative to one another, each of the plurality of shutters including:

a first end; and

a second end;

a pivot connecting the first ends of the plurality of shutters to the cutting housing; and

a support spaced from and secured to the cutting surface;

wherein the second ends of the plurality of shutters are slidable along the support between a collapsed position where the plurality of shutters overlie one another, an intermediate position where the plurality of shutters partially overlap one another, and an extended position where the plurality of shutters extend laterally from one another.

26. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 25 wherein the fin extends from one of the plurality of shutters, the fin including:

a first end adjacent to the pivot; and

a second end including a slot extending toward the first end of the fin;

wherein the support extends into the slot.

27. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 26 wherein:

the cutter housing includes:

an inner scroll centered about the engine mount; and

an outer scroll centered about the inner scroll and the discharge opening being in the outer scroll; and

the fin extending from one of the plurality of shutters toward the cutting plane and arcuately in a direction substantially parallel to the cutting plane and the first end of the fin being adjacent the junction of the roof and the outer scroll.

28. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 26 wherein the second end of the fin is movable between a first position adjacent the inner scroll when the plurality of shutters are in the collapsed position, a second position adjacent the outer scroll when the plurality of shutters are in the extended position, and at least one position intermediate the first position and the second position when the plurality of shutters are in the intermediate position.

29. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 26 wherein the inner scroll includes a recess aligned with the fin and the one shutter, the fin and the one shutter received in the recess when the one shutter is in the collapsed position.

30. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 26 wherein the support spans from the outer scroll to the inner scroll.

31. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 26 wherein the second end of each of the plurality of shutters extends into the space between the support and the cutter housing.

32. (New) A lawnmower convertible between a bagging mode and a mulching mode, the convertible lawnmower comprising:

- a cutter housing having a discharge opening;
- an engine mount centrally positioned on the cutter housing;
- a prime mover supported on the engine mount;
- a rotary mulching blade coupled to the prime mover to rotate in a cutting plane about a rotation axis within the cutter housing;
- a cover movably mounted within the cutter housing in a plane parallel to the cutting plane and between a full bagging position where the discharge opening is unobstructed by the cover and a full mulching position where the cover obstructs the discharge opening; and
- a fin extending from the cover toward the cutting plane; and

wherein the cover includes:

- a first shutter connected to a roof of the cutter housing adjacent the outer scroll;

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a second shutter movable relative to the first shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll, the second shutter including a first abutment and a second abutment; and

a third shutter movable relative to the second shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll, the third shutter including a third abutment;

the third abutment engaging the first abutment when the cover moves toward the full mulching position and the third abutment engaging the second abutment when the cover moves toward the full bagging position; and

wherein the fin extends from the third shutter.

33. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 32 wherein the first shutter, the second shutter, and the third shutter sequentially overlie one another as the cover moves from the full mulching position to the full bagging position.

34. (New) The convertible lawnmower according to claim 25 wherein the fin lies intermediate the cutting plane and the discharge opening.

35. (New) A lawnmower convertible between a bagging mode and a mulching mode, the convertible lawnmower comprising:

a cutter housing having a discharge opening;

an engine mount centrally positioned on the cutter housing;

a prime mover supported on the engine mount;

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a rotary mulching blade coupled to the prime mover to rotate in a cutting plane about a rotation axis within the cutter housing;

a cover mounted within the cutter housing in a plane at least substantially parallel to the cutting plane, the cover being movable between a full bagging position where the discharge opening is unobstructed by the cover and a full mulching position where the cover obstructs the discharge opening; and

the cover comprising a plurality of shutters extending at least substantially parallel to the cutting plane and slidable laterally relative to one another.